

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

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Form Bi-689

FIELD DIARY

Mr. E. A. Goldman

(Official title.)

Period, Feb. 25 to May 4

1935

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Feb. 25 (Mon.), 1935
Villa Hermosa, Tabasco to
Minatitlan, Vera Cruz by plane.

Ls. 10.30

Ar. 11.45

Topog. Plane flew lower than
on outward trip and we were
able to see details of land
surface better. Many large areas
that are shallow lagoons largely
of with water nearly or quite
covered with lechuga and
other water vegetation are now
dry, but extensive shallow
lagoon areas of many kinds
remain. Open lagoon inland
are distinguished in color
from flowing river waters.
While the rivers are usually
pea-greenish or more or less

1

Note from Mario del Toro

On Jan. 6, 1935 he noted
the following at Bocas de
Istapa, near Schuatenijo, Guer.
in coastal lagoon.

Dafila acuta - 2000

Dendrocygna aut. - 4000

Quer. cyanop. - 200

" *lucens* - 100

Feb. 25 con.

muddy, the lagoons, especially
the Isteros are inky black.
In places, however, the surface
of the water is covered with
algae or other floating plants
that make yellow or reddish
spots. ~~In one place~~ The serpentine
outlines of former streams can
be traced irregularly in all
directions. Many are now filled
or are indicated by fringes of
trees between which appears a
ribbon of shallow water covered
with vegetation. In one place
a former river channel was
indicated by inky black water
forming an ox-bow shaped
extero bordered by tall timber.
Such an area would no doubt
be a favorite haunt for
certain birds

Feb. 25 con. ^{west}
White geese. En route east
of Villa Hermosa we saw a
flock of about 50 white birds
that appeared to be stirred up
by the plane and flew in
formation like geese. An aviator
at Villa Hermosa has seen
them and thinks they are geese.

Feb. 26 (Wed.)
Minatitlán to San Jeronimo,
Irr. Mina., 6 a.m.
Ar. Hib. 6.30 a.m.
Lo. Hib. 7.08 a.m.
Ar. San Jeronimo, Oax. 5.30 p.m.

Tree ferns. In arroyos bet. Hobuenas
and Jaltipan.

Large Jambos near Suchil.
Jaltipan - Sabanas near fort
and Humid Trop.

Feb. 26 con.

Wild Banana - 2 species - one
less abundant with glaucous
under side of leaf.

Jaltipan - alt. 47 meters.
Yellow - fl. Arid Trop. tree
involves Humid Trop, but not
so abundant.

Melastomas - Abundant in
Humid Trop.

Popo. From Moyote R.R.
climbs rapidly along a ^{very} canyon
and beautiful stream * to
what appears to be a point
near top of backbone
and there is abrupt change
in veg. taking on more arid
trop. character. Rugged limestone
hills near Lagunas and vegetation
partly leafless - generally sterile.

5

Feb. 26 (con)

Parrot Gophers, ~~Rather~~ small
hill along R.R. just south of
Chivela.

Chivela. In rather, pretty
sterile country.

Feb. 27 (Wed).

San Gerónimo to Laguna Superior
and return.

Lv. 8 AM

Ret. 1 PM.

Trip by auto via Tachilán to
Laguna Superior. Heavy northern
blowing so hard we could hardly
stand up during gusts in the open.

Laguna Superior. A shallow,
salt water expanse of large size, the
fens at this season mud
flats about a quarter mile wide.
Entrances open into the Laguna with

Feb. 27 con.

bars across their ~~low~~ mouths
where water may be reduced to a
few inches.

Tower rearing. Only ducks seen
were about 100 in the shelter
of an extero. Many close under
a bank covered with brush behind
which birds were approached to
within a few feet and identification
could be made positive.

veg. and Prof. ^{many} much of the tree
leafless. Plains covered in places
with Acacia farnes. as dominant
species. Parkinsonia and I believe
Leucaena occurs but latter not
positively identified. Tear pod.

Feb. 28 (Thurs)
San ^{camp} Gerónimo to Tonalá, Chihuahua.
Lv. 7 A.M.

Ar. 5:30 P.M. (train late)
En route: - Open, grassy
sabanas interrupted by belts
and Prof timber. Oak-leaved
savana tree in open. Many
wild figs wrapped about
jun palms. Tree Ipomoea.
Cupul. Pear-shaped tree. Wild
anona; ~~hairs~~ thick vine.

Arturo ~~Gonzalez~~ ^{Gonzalez}. Has autos
at Tonalá. Port is Arista, 24 kilos.
Peds bridges near R.R. station; Hotel
in Tonalá Hotel Brigas.

^{auto to}
Tepachula - Hotel Imperial.

J.H. Redwell met at Arriaga
Amer. has been there 35 years

Mar. 1 (Fri.)
Tonala to coastal lagoons
and return

Lo. 7 A.M.

Ret. 8 P.M.

Visited mangrove border lagoon
near coast as far as Mojarras
and Puente Duro.

Lagoon varies somewhat in character
in different parts. Thousands of
ducks congregated where the water
low at present, is bordered by
soft, black ooze. In the
deeper, more saline parts no
ducks seen. No vegetation appears
to grow in the water.

Lesser scaup - Thousands - Deep water

Pintail - Hundreds

Blue-winged teal - Thousands ^{Shallow bays}

Spoonbill - Hundreds

Black-necked stilt - Hundreds

Mar. 1 con.

"Man-o-war-Bird, - 1 noted
"rabihorca do."

Roseate spoonbill - 3

White Ibis

Large W. heron

Sm. " "

Reddish egret

Little Blue heron

Little heron "

White pelican

Ducks, ~~apparently~~ Little or
no hunting done here as shown by
thinness, ~~at a ranch along shore~~
~~of lagoon. Blue-winged teal~~

Blue-winged teal ^{there} at a ranch
along shore of lagoon ducks were
feeding within 100 yards of
house & within 50 yds. of
domestic fowl. 10

Mar. 25th) Tonala
another trip to Laguna Leizaola de Tero.
Off. 7 a.m.
Ret. 5.30 p.m.

(Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - Small
"Tijirilla" - 3 or four together

White pelican - "pataganes"

Brown pelican - "alcatraz"

Black-necked stilt - "chavelita"

Large ^{red} mangrove - "mangle colorado"

Mangrove-like tree - "marital"

Sm. rooted mangrove - "mangle de ho"

Killdeer - 1

White-winged dove - numerous

Gen. conditions similar to yesterday
but water along parts of shore of
lagoon had receded, probably due to
cessation of north wind, and
leaving large areas of mud ooze.

Mar. 2 (Sat) ^{Loggins} con.

Terrap scamp. At Caabiza de
Paso watched these birds feeding
in shallow water beside blue wing
teal, pintails and spoonbills.
While the tip ducks tipped most
of the scamps dove as usual,
but several were seen feeding
much like surface ducks, with
~~only forepart of body~~ tails and
the rear part of body above
water. Instead of turning nearly
directly downward, however, they
tipped forward with feet wide apart
and often slightly breaking the
water.

Blue-wing teal - Most abundant
sp. here. Native hunter says ducks
come in October and some remain
until toward "tiempo de aguas".

Mar. 2 con.

Spoonbill. - 7 drakes seen in a group with no females in sight, and about 200 yards away. Two more drakes were unaccompanied by ducks.

Many doves still killed for
meat.

Gulls - About 2000 in flight
near Salinas, near San Juan
Potosi. I think this number may
be high - plenty left.

Gulls. See Francis Savory

Mar. 3 (Sun). ^{city}
Tonalá and en route to Mexico,
Lv. 7 P.M. (train late)

Mar. 4 (Mon).

En route to Mexico City.
Lv. 5:54 P.M.
Early in morning train
approaching Rodriguez Belara.
Guns. noted again that
country along route becomes dryer
north of Papaloapan River and
probably should be classed as
Arid Trop.

Carnival. Found carnival in
progress and hotels short of rooms.
No room at Hotel Imperial but we
found one finally at Hotel Leon.
Arrived Vera Cruz, 5:40 P.M.

1920 area of Lake Texoma
600 sq. miles.
Now practically dry.

Quail greatly reduced, formerly
mainly killed on streets.

Amma Avenue

Makes 68 - Quail usually

Pantail & others 6/10

Ducks 25 or 30 years old 5 cents
on street, - crippled Canada birds
3 cents.

Quail often in drives front
houses and with traps at corners,
trap a ~~few~~ ^{small} ~~not~~ ^{nest}, meet.

upland plover

5 upland plover killed last fall
Feb. here & elsewhere; formerly
abundant.

Departamento de la Caza y Pesca.

Enicisson 6-37-45.

- 6-47-7.

Mexicana L-94-15 6-47-7.

also sent copy of game
papers of mine.

A. del Leonde, Caza y
Pesca, Bolivar 24

Mexico City. Send him a
~~few~~ copies of press releases
affecting game. He has used
in publication ^{also sent him}
Leonde estimates number of
muzzle loaders 50,000 at least
in country.

about 1,000 hunters properly
equipped.

About 5000 rifles in hands
of professional hunters, for
food & commercial purposes.
mostly Indians - largely 30-30.
Organize hunters, 15

1112
152
Leads estimate number of deer
skins reported 200,000.

Quails still abundant in
northern states, like Canada.

In office of Carrillo.
Urgent Request,
Treat your subject briefly,
precisely and clearly.
Suppress ~~cautions~~ and
~~expressions~~ cautions and ~~talk~~
irrelevant talk.

Mar. 5 (Tue).
Lv. Vera Cruz, 7:45 AM

Mar. 6 (Wed).
Ar. City of Mexico, D.F. 12 M (than
late)

Mar. 7 (Thurs).
Market San Juan de Petran.
~~Ducks. 50¢ Pintail, 5 only,~~
~~one bearing inspection work~~
~~on breast.~~

~~Confused~~
Pintail. - 30% = 5
Blue-winged teal 30%
Spoonbill. 30%
Cinnamon teal ~~a few~~ 10%
Confused with Noddies.

~~Mar~~

Mar. 8 (Fri)
San Juan Market
Pintail, 5 no others

Merced Market - None.
~~Mar. 10 Sat~~

Mar. 10.
San Juan Market
Spoonbills - a few
Curlins - a few.

Mar. 12
San Juan Market
Spoonbills, 3.

Mar. 13.
Visited both ~~both~~ markets
found none. (ducks)
~~Ducks~~ - Spoonbills - Man on
street carrying 6.

Mar. 14-15 - Ruwaid
City of Mexico.

On 15 conferred again with
Carillo of Dept. of Educ.

Mar. 16.

Left City of Mexico 7.50 PM
for Tampico.

Mar. 17.

Ar. San Luis Potosi 7.50 AM.

To. . . 9.10 AM.

Ar. Tampico 9.20 PM.

Mar. 18. Tampico, Tamps.

Conferred with U.S. Consul
Macy and with J.P. Johnson
Cia Consolidada de Madras,
Aptdo. 87, Tampico.

Met also John J. Newell, Aptdo
40 Tampico. Mr. Newell is

Pintail
 Spermophile
 Blue.
 Wild.
 Linn.
 Gad.
 Ruddy.
 Linn.

Mar. 18 con.

a large land owner and is planting oranges of several kinds limes and other fruits and is also a rose fancier.

Has been very successful in growing roses for sale.

In afternoon Howell took us by auto to lagoons west of the Tamisi River in Vera Cruz.

Ducks: A few ducks were seen from the bluffs in Tampico, looking west toward the Tamisi River but in the distance and haze toward the sun could not be identified.

Pintail - 25
 Spermophile - 25
 Blue-wing - 50
 Wild - 50
 Linnamoor - 2 pairs
 Gadwall - 3 pairs
 Spermophile
 Ruddy - 3 or 4 pairs

Two lagoons about 100 in one and the others in another.

Mar 18 con.

Spoonbill (rosato) - 25

Lesser yellow legs - Flock of
about 100.

Wood Sticks - 15

Killdeer - 2

~~Three lagoons~~

Mudhens. Thousands widely
scattered in the salt lagoons
connected with Tamisi River.
and one flock of about 100
were closely packed together.

Large wh. egret. 25 scattered

Sw. " " - 5 in lagoons

Lagoons. Those connected
with Tamisi River are salt or
brackish ^{evaporated}
and ~~seem~~ seem to contain ^{very} little
vegetation the bottom
soft black ooze. It was here
that ducks were seen. We also

Mar. 18 con.
overlooked the Lagoa de Tawos
which is open water alternating
with patches of round lily.
No ducks seen there.

Mar. 19. Tramped to
Tamaia Lagoon.

Lv. 9 A.M.

Ret. 5.30 P.M.

Ran down Tamaia Lagoon to
~~beach~~ Tamaia Pumping Sta. on
frank open part of lagoon. Saw many
flocks of ducks.

Gadwall - 25 in small
lagoon along canal ^{also small}
_{flocks total 100}

Jacana - several
Cormorant.

Pintail - 12 - 3 - 25 - 15. ^{small flocks} total 100
^{small in that}
Canvasback - 100 - 1000. 1500
Widgeon - 50 - ^{small flocks} - 250
(21)

Mar. 19

Blue-wing teal - 3 pairs ^{& small lots} - 25

Fulica, flocks varying from hundreds to thousands in deep water in remarkably close order. Preparing to migrate.

Muscovy - 1, swimming along edge of mangroves in open lagoon.

Ducks. All of those seen today except canvasbacks were along edges of main lagoon or in small side lagoons off canal.

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Anas diazi } Jile Taro
porto Triguera }

Mar. 20, at Tampico.
Trip to Laguna de Chavil.
Lv. 9.00 A.M.
Ret. 2 P.M.

Route through Lower Tamesi
River into lagoon forming a ~~tidal~~
basin of nearly fresh water.
Open lagoon ~~bordered by~~ of
five or six sq. miles bordered
by thousands of acres of
lilies mainly round, water
2 or 3 ft. deep containing
considerable aquatic vegetation,
especially a celery like plant.
Canvasback. 2

Geese - Tens of thousands.

Boat sunk in shallow water in
lagoon.

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Mar. 20 con
Left Tampico 6:15 P.M. for
Mexico City.

Mar. 21 - Mexico City
Arrived Mexico City ~~from Toluca~~
Mexico City 10:10 P.M.

Mar. 22 to Apr. 12.
Int. negotiations.

Apr. 13. Mexico City to
Hda Tepetitlan near
Zitlahuaca, Mexico.

Lo. 10 A.M.

Ret. 9 P.M.

Route. Accompanied by Fred
C. Walcott and Mario del Toro
Añiles drove to hacienda
which is in ~~west~~ northwestern
part of Toluca Valley. At Terwa
25

Apr. 13 con.
found large marsh had dried
up, leaving a narrow river
channel.

Tehuacan de San Geronimo, On
road Toluca to Tlaltahuala we
passed a pond of shallow water
in a depression, the water
low and containing little
aquatic vegetation. Teguana
of about 100 acres.

Ducks:	
Canvasback	- 20
Ruddy	- 30
Common teal	- 10
Lesser scaup	25 40
~~Spoonbill~~	~~20~~
~~Blue-winged teal~~	~~2~~
~~Widgeon~~	~~3~~
Greater yellow legs	12 7

} 75 100

Pond; about 75 acres on
road Toluca to Tlaltahuala.

Apr. 13 con.

A shallow depression, not
much feed for ducks.

Ducks:

Ruddy - 25	} 75
Lesser scaup - 25	
Spoonbill - 20	
Blue-winged teal - 2	
Widgeon - 3	

Hda Tepetitlan. A fine old
place badly eroded, but with
good supply from a big spring
on the Rio de Jaltepec. Presa
about 5 miles long and 1 mile
wide. Water low and conditions
not very good, apparently for
ducks, but many said to
remain during winter. A
surprising number noted by us.

Ducks in Pura at 16da:

Pintail - 500	}	3000+
Leimanium teal - 10		
Spoonbill - 1000		
Lesser scaup - 1000		
Ruddy - 2		
Widgeon - 500		

(sun)

Apr. 14, ¹Mexico City.

(mon)

Apr. 15, ¹Mexico City to
Laguna del Rodeo, Morelos &
return.

Lo. 10 a.m.

Ret. 8 P.M.

Route, Highway through Cuernavaca
toward Grutas de Cacahuamilpa
about 45 kilometers beyond
Cuernavaca.

Laguna del Rodeo. Depression
1 1/2 miles long 1 broad. Considerable
good in water.

Apr. 15 con.

Ducks: Laguna del Rodio.

Spoonbill - 100

Canvasback - 4

Ruddy - 100

Widgeon - 35

~~Pintail - 16~~

Pied billed grebe - 20

Franklin gull? - 100

Lesser Yellowlegs - 100

Pelican (white) - 1

Western grebe

Laguna de Miacatlan, about
2 miles beyond Laguna del Rodio,
similar in character, but not
examined by us.

(True)
Apr. 16, Mexico City
Saw Alfredo Moreno again
and he hopes to have copy of
bird treaty for me day after
tomorrow. Accompanied by
Fred Walcott called on
Norris and discussed treaty.
Norris to get in touch with
Foreign Office to try to
hurry action.

Apr. 17. Mexico City
to Almoloya del Rio & return
For 8:30 AM
Ret. 5:30 PM
~~Route~~ over Sierra de Las Cruces
& down to near Terna & thence
over rough road to extreme
head of Rio de Terna. ~~A~~

Pato real - 2 - 2: Three said
to occur mainly in more isolated
parts of marsh. Tail to head in May. 30

Apr. 17 con.

Cind-billed grebe, 2-4 - Evidently common. Notes heard at intervals in canga when the birds were not seen.

Ducks, Canoe man says many ducks during winter, but nearly all now gone.

Rio Fuma Source. Large spring burst out at base of hill at Alameda del Rio and sluggish current runs down through marsh.

~~Rio~~

Tules. Round, large species abundant - showing effects of frost.

Water hyacinths and many aquatic plants in water - plants rather small.

Apr. 18 (Thurs.) Mex. City.
Conferred with Sawyer on treaty.
Told me he was making headway
but had to see Carrillo and
Vero to get data on a few
points.

Meanwhile at same hour
Walcott, Horned, Carrillo and
several others conferred in
regard to treaty.

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Apr. 19,

Gruse, Reported by Richards
flying over Puebla for 2 hours
last night.

Apr. 19 (Fri) Mex City.

Embassy. Conferred with Hornum
in morning. He gave me general
results of conference of Foreign
Office day before, ^{was about} as follows:

Point 1. Mex. Govt wishes treaty
differing from present drafts.

Point 2. Patrimony of Birds to be
included

Point 3. 3 treaties wanted, one on
birds, one on land mammals and
one on marine mammals and
fish. Land mamm. treaty to
include neutral zone along
international boundary.

Point 4. Treaty to be finally
approved after Sports Convention
in May.

Apr. 20-28. Mexico City.
Treaty negotiations. It has become
evident, however, that no treaty
can be concluded until after
Sports Convention to be held
next month.

Apr. 29 (Mon.)
Left Mexico City, 7.05 P.M.

Apr. 30 (Tue).
Arrived Guadalajara 9.30 A.M.
(Garry Acosta) whom I got
out of bed this morning).
Left Guadalajara at noon.

Pocket Gophers. Diggings
abundant along R.R. ~~so~~ where
it parallels a highway 20
minutes out of Guadalajara.

Apr. 30 (con)

~~Day~~ Life Zones. Soon after leaving Guadalupe pass into a rolling, elevated plains region with higher hills and low mountains rising above it. Railroad traverses plain ^{into valleys}, winding in and out among the hills. In this section long-leaved pines grow on the hills slopes down in places to level of valleys and mesquites grow along valley bottoms in the softer soil.

La Juvada. Breaks begin a short distance west and road runs down through country similar in character to that below Cuernavaca.

Vulcanism. Near Tetelav great lava flows of varying age but

Apr. 30 con.
all old.

High Mt.. Off to left on edge
of plateau an isolated mt.
was probably to 8000 ft. Visible
for hours along R.R.

Gopher barrens. In this region
lava beds and deep box canyons,
cut in solid rock would be
barrens in distribution.

May 1 (Wed). Mazatlan, Sur.
Arrived Mazatlan 6 A.M.

Hotel Belmar on water front
but general accommodations we
have had in Mexico.

Conferred with Vice-consul
Incausauri in the absence of

May 1 (con)
Leonard Derby.

Made trip in afternoon to
points north of Magallon -
various small lagoons behind
the broad belt of sand dunes
called Lagunas de Los
Camarrones. Here we noted
the following:

Mudhens - about 100, scattered
largely sitting along shores.

Towhee x camp. - 1 - 8 - 7 mostly
males.

Ruddy - 30. males & females

Wilson's phalarope - 10

Pink-billed grebe - 10 - 2 - 2.

Glossy Ibis - Scattering

Willet - 1 - 7

Black-necked stilt - 1

~~also make~~

• May 1 con.

Also made a trip to mangrove - bordered lagoon south of Magaitan in afternoon. ~~Large~~ Lagoons extending for many miles are rather narrow at this season but during rainy season spread over broad expanse. Noted the following:

Curlin - Small light-colored ^{and some grey} appearing rather light on face with rather short bill, 2 there along shore of Bay at Magaitan. mud flats

Willit - 30 - shore lagoon

Little Blue heron - 50 tidal mud flats.

May 2. (Luna)

Remained at Magaitan, waiting for northbound train in morning.

May 3. Fri #
Left Mazatlan, Son. 640 AM.

Culiacan. In arid, wooded plain of small, low growth, a few silk cotton trees but here *Ipomoeas* and mesquites are among the most prominent of larger growth. *Parkinsonia*, organ cactus abundant. Bullthorn, with flat, cupped thorns one of the dominant species.

Pocket gophers. Small diggings along river at R.R. crossing and along R.R. to northward.

Wg. north of Culiacan Mesquites and some other trees green but Bull-thorn and much other

May 3 (Fri)

vegetation nearly leafless, giving
a nearly leafless general effect.
Some patches of rather
low-growing wild pineapples.
Some of the hills are
completely brown - no trace of
green at this season and
~~with~~ a fuzzy look owing to
low brush.

San Blas. Considerable change
in vegetation. Leucideum becomes
common, along with Parkinsonia
and especially on slopes of hills
rather tall organ cactuses
resembling C. thurberi appear.
Bull thorn with flat-topped
spines still present. San
Blas a thriving farming (40)

May 3 (Fri)
community on Rio Fuerte.

May 4 (Sat.) Guaymas.
Arrived Guaymas 1:10 a.m.

Vis. Great change from the
more tropical veg. to that
to nearly typical of the
southwestern desert. Hills
nearly bare and sharply
outlined.

Made trip out in afternoon
past Empalme along shores
of Bay, especially a ~~small~~ shallow
~~shelled~~ lagoon that forms
with broad mud flats along
shore. Here we noted the
following: 41

May 4 (Sat.)

Scaup - 1 pair - flew

Willet
Wilson's Phalarope

~~Coots~~ - 50 - 50 = 100 in
close flocks.

Solitary sandpiper, - 1

Curlew (Long-billed), - 1

Curlew, light colored, with
whitish around eyes - 15

Brown pelican - 20 scattered.

Giant cactus forest Near
the shore of the ^{on elevated pond} lagoon, near
Pimpalme where the soil is
^{granular} soft and ~~probably~~ adjoining a
saline area there is a
remarkable stand of giant
cactuses, probably 40 or 50 acres.
Some are three feet in
diameter and remarkably
closely crowded. 42

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*Roll 25 Mexico 1938
No 2 Grant location at
Guaymas, May 4, 32-35 to
about 3/5 4 PM.*